

Arizona Girls State Independent



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Your Arizona Girls State Mayors and City Councilmen

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2010 Arizona Girls State Mayors

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Cholla

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Daniella Lopez

Palo Verde

Mayor

Linsey Goodwin

City Council

Cara Aguiar
Kelsey Thompson
Eva Jarmillo
Bhavana Vidyashankar

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Capital City, here we come!

LilySchleicher
Ocotillo City Reporter

All of one city's hard work pays off on Saturday morning just after breakfast. It is then that the capital city for the following years Girls State is recognized. Amongst the glorious certificates and ribbons to be given out, there is one that distinguishes the most courteous, energetic, and disciplined city. This is within each of all of our grasps. It takes only the effort each of us, as civilized people, should exert on a day to day basis.

When filtering out those elite cities that the decision is to be made between, there are pitfalls, and there are beacons. People who offer you a tray at lunch, or dinner, have made the effort. People who hold doors have made the effort. People who invite our lovely Governor and her Secretary of State-unless you happen to be last in line, not the best move- have made the effort. Saying hello to each and every girl is making the effort, these are things

we're all capable of.

They notice those who make an effort. But each of us have our vices as well as our virtues. Partying late into the hours of the night is not capital city behavior. Sneaking out is not girls state let alone capital city behavior. Snide remarks or commentary is entirely unnecessary.

When last years capital city advisor Ms. Diaz was asked what it took to become the best city, she remarked that her girls "Worked well together, helped out themselves and the other girls in the state. They worked well as a team."

As for individual advice, she said each girl should participate in anything and everything. Another important portion of capital city is how you interact with the girls in your city, they want to see that you've become more than a city, that you've become a family. Capital City is an honor, and those who receive it are given a gold star accolade and certificate that indicate you are the elite city, your are the capital city of twenty-ten.

Bathroom for four?

BreeRios
Manzanita City Reporter

Girls State is a fun, jam packed week filled with laughter, happiness, and no sleep. Every one agrees that Girls State is an awesome place to learn about government as well as meeting new people and having a good time.

There is one thing that some girls are having a more than hard time dealing with, four to a bathroom. Unless a girl wants hair half done, or makeup unfinished they need a specific amount of time to get all the finishing touches accomplished.

"I'm not used to sharing, but its not as bad as I thought. The only thing I'm not pleased with is the shower, the shower head isn't high enough!" Says Jessica Kenney.

On the other hand, Kori Stiles, has a different opinion. "I don't get much time to put effort into getting dressed as usual."

The girls we share state with are born leaders. Girls from Girls State can always find a way. "The best thing you can do is to coordinate two night shower girls and two morning shower girls," Arlett Valdez, Juniper.

Is a bathroom for four such a bad thing?

Anxiety over positions mellow as cities come together.

SharynTom
Palo Verde City Reporter

Yesterday in city hall, primaries marked the first day of voting for city positions. After a crash course overview, girls rushed to fill positions immediately.

Jasmine Clarke-Teller said, "It was a little nerve wracking having to improvise. It was a little scary because I've never done that."

However, she was not alone. Anxiety and shock are just a few of the emotions felt by delegates on day two. Daily, girls must choose between running for their dream positions and balancing their workloads.

Choosing Mayor for example can lock out all other options for any delegate. However, for Linsey Goodwin the positions of Mayor was her perfect fit.

"I consider myself a leader," she said, "but twenty-five [girls] was enough."

It seems the initial insecurity and fear has worn off as delegates become acquainted with their cities. The old city books are pulled out and the changes to the ordinances and resolutions begin. Amazingly, the confusion begins to stabilize as the cities elect their chosen officials.

"The tension is still there, but everything becomes clearer now...Everybody knows what they are responsible for," said Bhavana Vidyashankar.

As the elected officials settle into a routine and begin to function autonomously, all citizens go about their duties with a purpose and passion to perform which set the standards for Girls State.

"It started slow, but it's picking up," said Vidyashankar, "It's definitely going to be a fun week."

Journal: June 6

CassandraGill
Sycamore City Reporter

It's my first day here and I'm completely nervous! I don't know what to think and how to feel. It's so scary introducing myself to so many new people in one day, but it does get easier.

My roommate was one of the last to show up. I was so nervous she was never going to come, but she finally did and I was so excited to get to know her. This first day was so overwhelming and a lot to take in!

Early mornings, late nights - don't know how I'm going to do this?! I guess I'm gonna have to suck it up and do it. I'll check into you later and tell you how the rest of this crazy amazing week goes!

Hard work but getting it done

MelissaWhite
Mesquite City Reporter

this Monday, the girls of Mesquite really showed their outstanding creative and leadership abilities. In an effort for team unity and true monstrous Mesquite pride, elections ran smoothly and a personalized city began with posters and "Ghostly" handouts. Congratulations to all elected to city positions and best wisher for today.

Sock donations for our Veterans

JackieGerhart & JaseIBaeza
Mimosa City Reporters

Socks. Socks are on everyones mind in the city of Mimosa today as 158 socks were collected to give to Veteran Affairs hospitals as well as homeless shelters here in Tucson.

Not only is collecting socks helpful tot he community but it is also helpful for connecting people in the Girls State cities. Rachel Munroe from Mimosa says, "Having citizens come to my room to drop off their paris of socks really gave me a unique opportunity to meet everyone in my city."

As elections heat up this week don't forget to give back and give up your unused socks.

Everyone Matters!!

KelseyBlackman & MoniqueTrejo
Yucca City Reporters

Hey y'all!!

Wow, the first two days flew by with an array of excitement and as all you know...complete exhaustion.

Now that we're acquainted and are suiting up to run for positions, whether city,

county, or state the heat is building up!

We would like to convey to each of you how important and crucial every position, no matter how big small, each combine by helping the government to run smoothly and strongly!

We wish you all the best of luck and make the 2010 Girls State the best one yet!

Yucca City...REPRESENT!!

KelseyBlackman & MoniqueTrejo
Yucca City Reporters

Hola nuestra familia!

Our first two days have gone amazingly and Yucca City has come alive as we share our individual but outstanding talents and experiences, uniting together as a family.

We are official the Cleopa-

tras of Egypt and have had fun designing our city with "The mummy hand," the cobra, the pyramid, and all of the ancient Egyptian positions. A few examples are the Queen of the Nile, the Mummy Tomb and out TPstore!

Come visit anytime, we love visitors, but watch out for the mummy's hand. It might just come out and grab you!

Spirit at Girls State

JenniferEllis
Saguaro City Reporter

Claps, rants and cheers were all you heard as the first day came to and end. A wave of enthusiasm swept across delegates and staff alike. Some questioned the longevity of these bursts of excitement. However, as everyone saw, day two was just as full of life.

As you walk down the dorm room corridors the spirit and city pride is obvious. Chains and theme based decorations are everywhere and in alarming quantities.

City chants and songs are being created and sung. Late night decorating parties are becoming a regular thing as every city competes to be the best.

The camaraderie among girls is apparent and growing stronger with every meeting, laugh and conflict shared among them.

Whether or not it will last the whole week, we will have to wait and see. However, I believe just by seeing every ones ambition, excitement and willingness to jump in and get involved this will be the best and most interactive group of delegates yet.

Sisterly Love

Mary Ngugi
Sycamore City Reporter

A relationship is defined as an emotional connection, association or involvement.

As night falls on our first full day of Girls State we look back at all the relationships we have already made. First and foremost the roommates, they were your first friend here as well as the person who will laugh with you as you attempt to jump onto the overly-raised bed.

Your fellow citizens, whom you had to vote for Mayor and Councilmen. They also are the ones who will sing the chants in the lunchroom, even if people look at you funny.

Last but not least we formed political parties. It is no doubt that the Feds and Nats are passionate about their platforms. It will be interesting to see how we use the relationships we have so far as models for the ones to come. Tune in tomorrow when we dig deeper into sister love here at Girls State!

An hour with the Governor

BrookeFinley
Cholla City Reporter

Miss Annika James Huish, our governor at the 63rd session of Girl State, exclaimed that this year has "more energy and determination" than the last. As a result, campaigns are predicted to be intense. Suggestions that Annika empathized to have a successful campaign is to be involved, be positive, and to peruse "genuine interest in people - they know if you're being fake."

However, Annika was concerned about the large amount of girls running for governor as "if 20 people run, 19 people will not get it," which leads 19 with potential to be left without a position in State. This could arise issues, as an understaffed State could not pass bills and propositions effectively. All positions are important in Girls State; thus, they would not have been created.

Differences in unity

ShirinAhmadpour
Ocotillo City Reporter

After two days at girls state, bonding between cities has grown tremendously tight. Young ladies from all over the state of Arizona have brought many talents, a plethora of passions, a mixture of ethnicity, and yet they all share one common purpose: to enter their senior high school year and entrance into adulthood with knowledge of government and citizenship.

At Girls State one can encounter an athlete, a musician, a comedian, a future politician, a dancer, a future farmer and many more.

The unique quality about

each girl brings diversities to this program to excel in acceptance and to broaden her range of contrasting personalities.

"These differences are beneficial in creating opinions and ideas to gain an open minded nature in order to deliberate effectively," says Ocotillo delegate, Sarah Alsing.

And, she's not the only one who feels that way. Numerous girls appreciate the opportunity to meet like-minded, goal-oriented people, yet experience a variety of personalities.

Girls State has proven to be the home of future female leaders and its purpose has united some of the most intelligent leadership bound individuals.

Cholla residents bond in a "sweet tune"

ClaireCambron
Cholla City Reporter

By noon on Sunday excited chatter echoed down the hallways of Coronado. Groups of girls of varying sizes and colors wandered the floors while others sat along the walls playing icebreakers and other activities. Strangers from across the state have congregated here and despite their different backgrounds and converse interests, meaningful relationships have already begun to form. Each city has adopted its own quirky identity, as evidenced by the prideful cheers and group slogans.

In Cholla, the girls have already created a familial bond.

"We played the name game and it all went uphill from there," says Cholla Mayor, Emma Stone. Autumn Davidson commented, "We're all really spirited people and with this much spirit in a group, we're bound to have fun."

And with only two days down, the friendships are bound to strengthen by the weekend. Although we have much to learn through the week, we've already witnessed the power of community. Cholla resident, Stephanie Mejia, creatively described the social atmosphere of the cities: "We're like the instruments in an orchestra from one of us plays a different tune, but together we form a beautiful melody!"

Girls' expectations exceeded at GS

DanaDale & MorganBrewster
Juniper City Reporters

We all got that call, "Hi, Congratulations, you made Girls State." But what did it mean?

Mariah Barron of Manzanita City said that at first she was confused. Like many of us, Barron did not know what exactly Girls State was, but was excited for the experience.

As the days counted down til Girls

State, the excitement grew. Orientation taught us a little more about what we were going to do and then the big day arrived.

"Girls State is ten times more fun than what I thought it would be and more than any of my expectations," said Dana Dale from Juniper City.

Cheyenne Love from Cholla City also did not have high hopes for Girls State.

"I thought it would be really drab, but when I got here I wouldn't think people are as they are here," said Love.

Three days into Girls State, and the program set-up has gotten easier to understand. There are three types of government; city, county and state. The only question is who will fill in these positions.

Most girls have not decided yet what office they are running for, while others have already filled city positions including Mayor and City Council.

So far girls are impressed by Girls State and are excited to see what happens next.

Parties Rally during Girls State Convention

DawnEricsson
Manzanita City Reporter

Last night, the Federalists and the Nationalist met for the first time. At the Nationalist Convention, the air was filled with anticipation. Anabel Terry, chairman of the Nationalist party, led the rally with great enthusiasm and left everyone excited for the upcoming election. When asked what she thought Christine Wilkes of Manzanita said, "It was intense!"

Christine will be running for County Attorney of Cocopah

County.

Over at the Federalist Convention things were just as exiting. Lin Wany, the chairman of the Federalist Party led her rally with equal enthusiasm. Ji Kang of Juniper said, "The chants were really rhythmic." Ji will be running for Superior Court Judge of Cocopah County.

With both parties rallied and excited who will be the one with the most offices? After today, the answer is unclear; we will just have to wait to hear the election results!

Decorations are upon us

AshleyOlsen
Palo Verde City Reporter

For most girls having spirit for their city was not an issue. From decorating doors and walls to accidentally placing mascots in someone's hallway, citizens took pride in promoting their cities.

The Palo Verde Piranhas made paper fishes and chain links to connect the rooms of girls within their city. The neighboring city of Cholla made life size replicas of their mascot, the cheetah, turning their hallway into a jungle.

Not only did cities decorate

their cities but they chanted at meals and during walks from their dorms to the social science building. We even chanted when a delegate had to claim a lost item. Losing an item ensues them to having to do a silly routine in front of the whole Girls State audience.

The pride and enthusiasm wasn't just shown through the decorations and chants, but through the attitudes and genuine smiles on the girls faces. Being in a new place with new friends makes this week Boss!